



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
U.S. Food and Drug Administration

2015 Science Writers Symposium

Our Commitment to Research: Past to Present

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Office of External Affairs/Office of Communications/History Office

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**FDA**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
U.S. Food and Drug Administration

ADVERSE REACTIONS

"Thomas Maeder has written a fascinating book on the origin, use, and decline of a major antibiotic, chloramphenicol. For this reason the book will be valuable to students of the drug development process in the United States. But the book is more, much more. Chloramphenicol is an archetype of all new drugs produced in the current era of pharmacologic therapeutics. As our health care system evolves, it would be well for the architects creating new systems to study closely the history of chloramphenicol. As George Santayana put it: 'Those who do not remember the past are condemned to relive it.'"

—HERBERT LEY, Jr., M.D., M.P.H.
Former Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration

THOMAS MAEDER

AUTHOR OF *CHILDREN OF PSYCHIATRISTS*

VITAMANIA

OUR OBSESSIVE QUEST FOR
NUTRITIONAL PERFECTION



CATHERINE PRICE



History Office

Mission Statement

- To increase knowledge of the history, mission, and activities of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and its predecessor, the Bureau of Chemistry in the Department of Agriculture.



What We Do: Oral History

- Conduct oral histories with retired and nearly retired FDA employees with significant contributions to make to the agency's institutional memory.



What Do We Do: Artifacts

- We curate, protect, and preserve evidence of the agency's physical past
 - Patent medicines
 - Wiley era catsup bottle
 - Elixir Sulfanilamide and thalidomide
 - Dalkon Shield
 - Inspector's equipment



Introducing Visitors to the FDA





FDA

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
U.S. Food and Drug Administration

Artifact Alcove – Building 1





What We Do: History Website

■ Website

- <http://www.fda.gov/AboutFDA/WhatWeDo/History/default.htm>
- Oral history interviews
- Flickr photos
- Information/articles

History - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.fda.gov/AboutFDA/WhatWeDo/History/default.htm

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About FDA

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What We Do

- History
- FDA's Origin & Functions
- Milestones in U.S. Food and Drug Law History
- Overviews on FDA History
- FDA Leaders & Their Deputies
- Histories of Product Regulation
- FDA Organizational Histories
- Research Tools on FDA History
- Oral Histories
- Centennial of FDA
- This Week in FDA History
- Links to Related Web sites

History

The Food and Drug Administration is the oldest comprehensive consumer protection agency in the U. S. federal government. Its origins can be traced back to the appointment of Lewis Caleb Beck in the Patent Office around 1848 to carry out chemical analyses of agricultural products, a function that the newly created Department of Agriculture inherited in 1862. Although it was not known by its present name until 1930, FDA's modern regulatory functions began with the passage of the 1906 Pure Food and Drugs Act, a law a quarter-century in the making that prohibited interstate commerce in adulterated and misbranded food and drugs. Harvey Washington Wiley, Chief Chemist of the Bureau of Chemistry in the Department of Agriculture, had been the driving force behind this law and headed its enforcement in the early years, providing basic elements of protection that consumers had never known before that time.



The U. S. Post Office recognized the 1906 Act as a landmark of the 20th century when it released this stamp, the design of which was based on a 19th century patent medicine trading card.

The FDA and its responsibilities have undergone a metamorphosis since 1906. Similarly, the marketplace itself, the sciences undergirding the products the agency regulates, and the social, cultural, political, and economic changes that have formed the context for these developments, all have witnessed upheavals

Spotlight

- Women's History Month
- 50 Years: The Kefauver-Harris Amendments

History Highlights

- An Overview of FDA History
- FDA and Clinical Drug Trials: A Short History
- The Story of the Laws Behind the Labels

FDA Organizations

- Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research
- Center for Devices and Radiological Health
- Center For Drug Evaluation and Research
- Center for Veterinary Medicine

Resources for You

- FDA History Research Tools
- Oral Histories: Perspectives From FDA Staff
- Other Websites With FDA Historical Information
- The FDA History Office

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Corridor Posters Available on Flickr

